ART. VI.—*Papers relating to Emigration.* Printed for the House of Commons, 27th March, 1835.

2. *Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia; with Observations on the General Resources of New South Wales.* By Captain Charles Sturt. 2 vols., 8vo. London, 1833.

3. *State and Position of Western Australia, or the Swan River Settlement.* By Captain Irwin, late acting Governor of the Colony. 8vo. London, 1835.

4. *Letters from Poor Persons who have lately emigrated to Canada.* 3rd edit. 1835.

IT has been shown over and over again in this Journal, that the redundancy of labour which weighs so heavily on our parish rates, and renders the administration of any poor-law the legislature may enact a difficult and dangerous matter;—the dearth of employment, and consequently of the means of sustenance, which forces the Irish peasantry into illegal and murderous combinations, and prepares them to be the ready tools of every political agitator who has an object to serve in fomenting rebellion;—the excessive competition which, in every branch of trade, in every avenue for the investment of capital, and in every profession, renders the chance of a remunerating return every day more and more precarious;—that these perplexing circumstances, which our economists have so laboured their brains to render still more puzzling, are, in fact, the simple and inevitable results of the rapid growth of our population and our wealth, during a lengthened peace, and under the shadow of free and happy institutions, *without a proportionate increase of the territorial area for their employment;* and that the obvious remedy to this plethora lies—not as the Broughams and Martineaus advise, in a painful and suicidal attempt to check the rate of increase of our people and our capital—but in the enlargement of the field for their employment, by facilitating their

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Indian Sketches, taken during an Expedition among the Pawnee Tribes and other Indians of North America. By John T. Irving, jun. 2 vols. 12mo.

transfer

tenures to the ancient dependencies of Britain which ought to be considered as much in the light of outlying counties as the Isle of Wight, Jersey, or Man—where there is ample room and verge enough for the development of our industry for centuries to come—and whose soil, from the luxuriance of the yet virgin soil, the returns will repay tenfold the cost of its cultivation.

Every hour forces this subject more and more upon our attention, as the true and only solution of the difficulties whereby the industry of the country finds itself cramped and pinched. To take but one instance out of hundreds:—the heart-rending case of the hand-loom weavers of the north of England and the west of Scotland.* For twenty years this portion of our working population has been pressing its miserable condition on the attention of parliament, and earnestly supplicating some legislative relief. In 1835, a committee of the House of Commons, after a patient investigation of their suffering state, and of all the imagined means of relieving it, came to the opinion that it admitted but of one remedy, namely, the affording them facilities to emigrate. Unfortunately, however, no steps were taken—or none to any effectual extent—in furtherance of this recommendation; and the consequence is, that after years of protracted anguish in what was then a hopeless, and has every subsequent year been shown to be a perfectly desperate contest with their gigantic rival, the steam engine, our hive of these unfortunate hand-loom weavers still before parliament, recounting their sad story, and calling aloud, as before, for restrictions on machinery, boards of trade to regulate wages, and all those other nostrums which drowning men may be excused for catching at in their agony as means of salvation, but which, if granted do, their process could only make their state worse rather than better. It is indeed surprising that any single member of parliament should think of encouraging the delusion under which these poor people labour, by granting them the successive committees that have been sitting during the two last sessions for the consideration of their wild requests. It is difficult to believe that any species of education in the present day can imagine impediments of mechanism, that is, of the instruments by which man produces the various objects of his consumption, to be an evil which it is desirable to restrict, or can seriously propose that the legislature should interfere to dictate the terms of the pecuniary bargain between employer and their labourers. The desire to shield well

* On this, as on all other subjects connected with the Hand-loom Weavers, we have spoken at length in the New Statistical Account of Scotland, to be published shortly, and which, when completed, will be the most valuable work of the kind ever produced in any country of the world. We refer, in this place, to the article on Glasgow, and that on Dundee.

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with popular constituencies by an appearance of attention even to their silent fancies, is no doubt at the bottom of the appointment of these committees. They may however be usefully employed, in so far as they afford countenance to a simplification of ideas, and divert the attention of all parties from the consideration of that remedy which alone is adequate to the occasion.

Look again to the efforts now making throughout England for the reduction of pauperism. Can the workhouse system of relief for the able-bodied—the sheet-anchor of the scheme embodied in the late Poor-law Amendment Act—be effectual as the means? Nay, can it be safe, practicable, or just, to cooop up one hundred thousand paupers in these district gaols, and sever them from their wives and children, *for the crime of not being able to obtain employment*, while their labour-market is kept in a state of constant glut by the overflow of Irish wretchedness into it, and no vent is opened to drain off the surplus? One of two things only can happen from such an attempt, if made: either a renewal of the Jacqueries of the autumn of 1830, or at least the general depression of our labouring peasantry to the potato and water level of their Irish competitors in the labour-market. We are of opinion, from that history and experience inform us of the spirit and impatience of tyranny which characterise that peasantry, as well as from sundry other indications of a more particular nature, that the issue of these alternatives is by far the *least* likely of the two to occur. But to the other is inevitable.* True it is that parishes and unions are empowered by the late act to raise money on the security of their rates for aiding the emigration of their surplus labouring poor; but there is little probability of their doing this, if they are permitted to get rid of the application for work by the offer of the workhouse—in other words (for it amounts to nothing less), by the threat of imprisonment. We still hope that among the amendments which must shortly be introduced into the late act this will not be overlooked—namely, that before able-bodied labourers are compelled to reside, and to bring their innocent families within the close and contaminating atmosphere of a workhouse, as the sole condition of their relief or employment, they shall have the offer of a free passage for themselves and their families to one of the colonies.

* We take this opportunity of directing attention to a work which we have just read, but which is not yet published—the second *series* of Mr. Gleig's "Country Curate" (which means, in reality, a collection of tales, written by him from time to time, and published in the periodical works of the day), and which will be found to contain, like the interesting volumes already published, many sketches of character and incident, illustrative of the manners and condition of the peasantry, and of the habits and state of education and society of the English people; and which, we discern, bear internal evidence of having been composed by a man of talent, that might have employed his pen to more important purposes, if it had not been turned to such objects, and by such talents.

Our

Our earnest desire, we confess (and, moreover, entertain a confident hope of living to see it fulfilled), is, that means should be provided, of a public, a permanent, and gratuitous character, for facilitating the spontaneous emigration of every industrious labourer who finds it impossible to procure a subsistence in the British islands. In one word, we desire to see the Atlantic *bridged over* by government arrangements, at the expense of the nation, for the free passage of all able-bodied paupers who, after due notice, may present themselves at the outports, with a proper certificate of character, and of the necessity of their situation.

Suppose, for an instant, such an arrangement were established, and in active operation, what a load of anxiety would be taken off the bosoms of those who, whether as members of the government, of the legislature, or of society, feel a deep and overwhelming interest in all that affects the condition of the labouring classes—the numerical bulk of the community! No more committees or commissions of inquiry into the distressed state of the Glasgow weavers, the Sussex ploughmen, or the Irish cottiers! No more itinerant bands of inoperative operatives challenging our compassion on every high road with assurances that the mills in which they lately worked have been shut up, or the furnaces blown out, and that they have vainly wandered in search of employment from Paisley to Axminster, or from Merthyr Tydvil to Birmingham! No more heart-rending accounts of the entire population of extensive districts, labouring at their unhealthy looms through the livelong day, and half the night, for a sum which will not keep a family in bread and water! No more futile (because easily evaded) acts to prevent the wholesale offering up of infant life at the shrine of the factory Juggernaut, by mothers who must sacrifice their babes to buy off famine! No more minute, painful, and unsatisfactory inquiries into the character, past history, and earnings of almost *every* agricultural labourer in the country, with a view to determine the question whether he shall be allowed eighteen pence at the end of the week out of the parish rates, to assist him to maintain his family, or be required to bring them all, boys and girls, and their decent mother to boot, to take up their residence in *classified* workhouses, within high walls, and consume their lives in pacing round yards twenty feet by thirty, and eating bread and cheese on the odd days of the week, and porridge on the even! No more rick-burnings and machine-breaking by a peasantry demoralized through a long course of training to idleness in the school of the parish gravel-pit! No more desolating accounts from county Clare or Mayo of the ejectment of fifty cottier families from their farms and hovels—for arrear of rent, or for the sake of enabling the landlord to enlarge his park, or to turn his small farms into large

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ones having been followed, as a thing of course, by the murder of the agent, the burning of the new tenants in their beds, and the general outbreak of a Rockite insurrection, requiring the Insurrection Act, and a couple of regiments, and half a dozen executions, to quell it.* No more harrowing statements of the population of whole districts being habitually compelled for want of work and food to eke out their *single* meal of dry potatoes with bitter and unwholesome weeds, *until their very blood turns yellow!* Under such a provision the labouring-population of the United Kingdom would preserve itself in a healthy and safe condition. The labour-market of the British empire would be put in *equilibrio*. So long as the demand for labour in the colonies continued at any thing like its present intensity—(and, as we shall shortly show, there is no prospect of its diminution, but, on the contrary, a certainty, under wise regulations, of its continual increase),—so long might we sit down in the happy conviction that no willing labourer could long want employment—so long must the rate of wages in this country maintain itself at something not much under that which obtains in the colonies, where the abundance of fresh and fertile soil, to be had almost for the asking, must always preserve it at a very high level. Industrious pauperism would wholly disappear, and poverty be found only among the crippled, the sick, and the impotent!

But the benefits of such a state of things would not be confined to the labouring classes. Capital in this country is notoriously in the same condition of congestion as labour. The capitalist, it is true, is competent without aid from the state to transfer his capital to the colonies; but of what use would it be to him there, unless he can procure an adequate supply of labour to set it in motion? He may buy land dirt-cheap, but where are the axe-men to clear it, the ploughmen to cultivate it? These he cannot import with his ploughs and axes, as he would cattle or horses, since, in a free state, they would leave him immediately upon their landing, tempted by the high rate of wages which the scarcity of labour maintains in the colony. All attempts to secure the services of imported labourers by a system of indenture or apprenticeship have failed upon trial, from the facility of avoiding the indentures by removal to other neighbouring countries, or from the recognised

* Horrible as such statements are, and almost incredible when told of a country which [illegible] moral influences of [illegible] and which prides itself on its humanity, refinement, and civilization,—we have reason to know that many such, and, if possible, some still more harrowing, will be found in the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the poor of Ireland, which is [illegible] but [illegible] rests on the legislation of Britain for allowing the only real grievance of Ireland to remain so long unredressed.

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and invincible laziness of *compelled*, as contrasted with voluntary, labour. But let government pour in a copious though duly regulated stream of emigrant labourers, and the operations of the colonial capitalist will be proportionably developed. Certain of an adequate supply of labour, and equally so of a market for its produce in the mother country, whose demand for colonial corn, and wool, and timber, will be proportionate to the growing demand of the colony upon her manufactures—he will boldly embark in the reclamation of its fertile wastes. The forest will be cleared, cultivation will spread itself, and towns arise with the magical rapidity which is witnessed in the western provinces of the United States. And the avenue thus afforded for the profitable employment of capital cannot but affect the rate of profits in every branch of industry and investment for capital of the mother country. Our manufactures will find a new and rapidly-increasing market in the thriving colonies, which they look for in vain among our idle paupers at home, or in the sluggish nations of southern Europe and America. And innumerable openings will present themselves for the trading enterprise or professional skill of those individuals of various classes who are now hopelessly waging an internecine rivalry with a host of competitors, in the limited field which these tiny islands afford for the development of British energy.

And what price will the nation have to pay for a talisman which shall secure to every class such eminent advantages? What price, let us first ask, would be considered too great for it? Millions might be well laid out in its purchase; since, viewed only in a pecuniary light, the increased trade and business of all kinds that would follow from it, and the savings it would occasion in poor rate, in the cost of crime, and in the cost of police armed and unarmed, would be worth many and many a million to the nation! We lately saddled the country with a permanent debt of seven hundred thousand pounds per annum, for the sake of liberating from slavery about that number of blacks. Without undervaluing the great object of that costly measure, we may be permitted to hold the welfare of the millions of our white fellow-countrymen who earn their daily bread by their daily labour, to be infinitely dearer and more valuable than that of the half-savage black apprentices of our West India islands. And, putting aside the feeling attached to the idea of slavery and freedom, it is undeniable that the amount of physical and mental suffering from which we have at that expense relieved the negroes, was as nothing compared with that which our unemployed and workhouse-imprisoned labourers of England, and the starving peasantry of Ireland, still endure. They are free indeed: but what is *liberty* to one who has not a potato? Or, *is he free*, who must starve, unless he accept

confinement

confinement in a workhouse? What price then we ask—measuring by the scale of liberality which was established by parliament in that recent instance—what sum could be too great to pay to relieve these millions of our fellow-countrymen from their bondage, not a nominal but a real slavery—the slavery of the overseer or the middleman?—Viewed, whether as a question of mere finance, of policy, or of feeling, would any price be *too* much to pay for such a change?

But what would be its real cost? The answer to this question must be sought in an inquiry into the rate of increase of the population of the British islands. This may be stated in round numbers at about 300,000 per annum. But the increase of the means of employment at home will no doubt absorb a considerable proportion of this numerical increase. The removal, therefore, of 200,000 individuals yearly would, probably, take off the whole excess. And, indeed, we have great doubts whether anything like that number would be applicants for a free passage. This number will, at an average of five to each family, give 40,000 heads of families to be removed; and if we allow 25*l.* as the average cost of passage and provisions to each family, or 5*l.* per head—a most liberal allowance, as we shall shortly prove—the total expenditure cannot exceed a million per annum; about a third more than what we have willingly consented to pay for the extinction of negro slavery, and *one-eighth* only of the annual amount of the poor-rate of England and Wales! Nearly fifty millions are annually levied from this wealthy nation, for the general purposes of the state; twenty-eight millions for the maintenance of the national faith by payment of the public creditor. Even if it could not be proved (as it most clearly can) that the money will be returned, with ample interest into the national coffers, would *one* million be too much to pay for the complete extinction of *industrious pauperism* throughout the three kingdoms?

Many persons, we know, are friendly to the principle of emigration applied as a relief to the excess of population from which we are suffering, but deprecate the interference of government or the legislature, and are satisfied with that amount of emigration which is at present spontaneously taking place at the expense of the individuals themselves, occasionally assisted by charitable neighbours and their parishes. But experience has now proved that this spontaneous emigration is insufficient to effect the object in view. The number of emigrants who under this system have left the United kingdom annually within the last four years has rather fallen off than increased, as it should have done, if we are to entertain any hope of its reaching an extent sufficient to make a sensible impression on the labour-market here. The following is the

the statement just furnished to the House of Commons from the Colonial Office, of the progress of emigration to Canada and the United States during the last six years.

Comparative Statement of the Number of Emigrants from the United Kingdom to North America.

	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.	1834.
Arrived at Quebec .	15,945	28,000	50,254	51,746	21,752	30,935
„ at New York *	11,501	21,433	22,607	28,283	16,000	26,540
Total . . .	27,446	49,433	72,861	80,029	37,752	57,475

It will be observed that, though the increase was very rapid from 1829 to 1831, in the next year it was but moderate, and in 1833 the numbers were reduced to less than one-half of those of preceding years. This was owing no doubt to the dread of cholera, which had found its way to North America in the early part of that year; and though the emigrants, as appears from the statement of the government agent, Mr. Buchanan, were less severely affected by this scourge than the resident population, still it considerably damped the desire to follow close upon the track of so rude a fellow-traveller. The emigration of last year gained in some degree upon that of 1833, but did not much exceed that of 1830, and fell very far short of the number which crossed the Atlantic in 1831. So that it seems clear—if we are to rely on the spontaneous unassisted efflux of our redundant numbers, the evil must go on accumulating upon us most rapidly; the average annual increase being, as we have stated, upwards of 300,000, while the annual drain, on the average of the last six years (adding to the above figures the comparatively small numbers who have gone to the Cape and Australia) does not exceed 57,000.

It may, however, be supposed by some that the emigration thus going on is as much as the colonies require, or will bear. The reports of the government agents in the colonies are very far from giving countenance to this idea. On the contrary, their statements, however guarded and cautious, evince clearly that the demand for labour there is far from satisfied by the stream that has been hitherto taking that direction. Mr. Buchanan writes from

* It is satisfactory to know that the greater proportion of the emigrants who land at New York make their way immediately by the canals to Upper Canada. This route is taken by preference, and not unwisely, to the sea voyage, and avoids the risks of the entrance of the St. Lawrence. Mr. Buchanan says, 'Few British subjects now settle in the western states of the Union.'

Quebec

Quebec on the 23d of June last:—'In every part of Upper Canada, the want of labourers is complained of. In this city there is not an emigrant in want, nor whom, if industrious, I cannot easily direct to employment.' The agent is in fact besieged by applications from every part of the province, like the following, from Mr. John Hilton of Newcastle District, Upper Canada, addressed to Mr. Buchanan:—

'Agricultural labourers are sadly wanted in this and the adjoining townships. If you could direct a driblet of your great stream this way, it would serve all parties. Seymour, adjoining us, is settling fast and requires hands much.'*

The provincial gazettes, of Upper Canada especially, speak more strongly to the insatiate and insatiable demand for labourers which prevails through every part of that country. It is amusing to observe the jealousy which these local writers evince of the destination of emigrants to any other part of the province than their own.

'One would imagine,' says the *Kingston Chronicle*, 'that the emigrants of the past and present years had taken leave of their senses, when we view them crowding in shoals to the western part of the province and the United States, burying themselves some hundreds of miles away from civilization, and passing in their way thither thousands of acres of as beautiful land as can be met with in any part of the habitable world.'†

Another journalist of the same place twits his fellow-townsmen with allowing the shrewder people of York to decoy the emigrants to take up their residence among them by preparing convenient houses for their reception before they arrive:—

'At York no less than five hundred buildings are being erected at this present time, calculated for the poorer kind of the increasing population, while in Kingston the only erections carried on are for the increased convenience of the higher orders. "Population is wealth"—a truism the good people of York appear to understand and act upon.'—*Kingston Spectator.*

How strikingly the leading distinction between the state of society on this and the other side of the Atlantic is illustrated by that simple axiom 'Population is wealth,' which experience has established as 'a *truism*' *there*, whilst *here* experience has as convincingly shown 'population' and 'poverty' to be synonymous! Mr. Bevans, in his valuable communication of last year to the Poor-Law Commission, declares that he is 'satisfied, from observation based on a long experience and a deep interest in the subject, that 30,000 or even 40,000 able-bodied men would obtain employment in *Upper Canada* alone, if notice that such a body

* Emigration Paper, p. 19.

† Extract quoted by Mr. Bevans, Poor-Law Commission Appendix (C), p. 58.

body might be expected were given. Upper Canada alone, we think, would absorb, it is probable, even the very first year, the whole number of labouring families which we consider as represented by the number above, would be induced to emigrate annually by the offer of a free passage to such as were destitute and unable to find work at home. But when to the demand of Upper Canada we add that of Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland, the Cape, the eastern and western coast of New South Wales, and Van Diemen's Land, we think it cannot be doubted that, by employing proper precautionary measures, a number far exceeding any that would be likely to avail themselves of the offer, might be advantageously disposed of in these different colonies, without, in any degree, glutting the spontaneous and natural demand which exists there for labourers, or materially depressing the rate of wages they can command. On this point it is to be remarked, that according to the reports of the agents, an unusually large proportion of the emigrants of the last two years have been persons possessed of capital, and having in view the purchase of land to be cultivated by hired labour. The demand for labourers must consequently be greatly on the increase, even since the date of the accounts we have just quoted. And we have no doubt that, were such a supply of labour might by any arrangements be poured into the North American colonies, the demand will always proceed and outmarch it. In fact, the emigrant labourer of one year after very few seasons becomes a capitalist and landowner, and is enabled to hire the services of an assistant himself; so that, besides the rapid introduction of farming capital from this country, which must be accelerated in proportion as a prospect is opened of being able to command an adequate supply of labour, the internal growth of capital advances with equal rapidity. The consumption of both we may be quite certain, will absorb any number of labourers that should be able under any circumstances to spare themselves from the protection of the mother country.

We have allowed the sum of 5*l.* per head as the utmost limit of the cost of removal to the colonies. But this is in truth a very liberal allowance. The usual charge per head from Bristol, Glasgow, or London to Montreal last season, for steerage passengers, was from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.* Vessels are taking in emigrants this season from Cork, Waterford, and Limerick, at a charge of from 3*l.* to 3*l.* 5*s.*, and even so low as at 2*l.* 5*s.* per head. The same passage to Australia and the Cape is, of course, somewhat higher; but the numbers which it would be desirable to send in this direction would be comparatively few. Indeed, it might be sufficient to offer a sum equal to the cost of conveyance to our American colonies, as an aid to those who, preferring to follow their fortunes

in New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land, could provide the remaining sum from their own resources.

We repeat, that we are desirous of seeing a sufficient sum, even though it should amount to a million, annually placed at the disposal of the Colonial Minister for the purpose of furthering the emigration to our colonies of such able-bodied labourers as, being unable to find employment in their native country, are willing to seek it, with their families, in the outlying provinces of the empire, where it is certain to be obtained. The steps that have been hitherto taken by government for facilitating emigration have paved the way for the adoption of a systematic and comprehensive scheme of colonization. As experiments and preparatives they have been serviceable; but they have been totally inadequate to do anything appreciable towards the reduction of the excess of the labouring classes of this country, or the satisfaction of the demand in the colonies. About 16000*l.* was granted in the last year as a bounty, and 3360*l.* advanced as a loan in aid of the emigration of 108 men, chiefly artisans, with their families, to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land; and 864 females were assisted to migrate to the same quarter by a grant of 12*l.* each: so that something under 15,000*l.* is all that has been hitherto expended of the public money in any one year upon this great national object!

We view these first steps, trifling as they are, with interest; more particularly the female consignments, which are so essential for the purpose of reducing the frightful inequality of the sexes that prevails in those colonies. It is pleasing to observe, in the detailed return now made of the disposal of the female immigrants which arrived at Van Diemen's Land, by the Strathfieldsay, in August 1835, how very few there are, out of the 272 individuals who composed this ticklish cargo, that were not only landed in safety, but provided with respectable situations, or placed under the protection of friends and relatives, or *married*—within a month after their arrival. We certainly perceive one or two entries of a rather equivocal character, as, for example,—Eliza Collins, nursery-maid, under *the protection* of Mr. Orr; Hannah Biddle, general servant, gone to an improper house; Elizabeth Elson, absconded; Susannah Heppard, assistant-cook, living with a stone-mason. Are the stone-masons of Van Diemen's Land such *bon vivants* that they keep *assistant-cooks*? But the rest are excellently disposed of, chiefly in servants' places, at wages varying from 16*l.* to 30*l.* a year. Two *actresses* are engaged at the theatre at 70*l.*—Medallic Thirza Rumens and Delizia Rumens. (Surely the Hobart Town Laporte ought to import him at his own expense.) It is intended to ship on the

more similar cargoes in the course of this year, one of them, we believe, sailed a few weeks back. The Colonial Office deserves credit for this arrangement, which will, no doubt, be very serviceable towards effecting its particular object, namely, the improvement of the state of society in the two Australian colonies, but cannot be considered as of any value as a depletive of our surplus population.*

Something, however, has been done of a preliminatory nature in the late appointment of emigration agents at the principal outports, to assist with their advice those who arrive there with the intention of emigrating, and are in danger, from their ignorance of shipping affairs, to be defrauded by some of the swindling crimps or extortionate masters of vessels who frequent such places, and exert all their artifice to get possession of the poor emigrants' little store. These agents are also, we believe, or ought to be, commissioned to inspect and certify to the safe condition of vessels in which emigrants are about to sail. It is owing, no doubt, to the unseaworthy state of some of the ships, and of their crews, which have lately taken out emigrants, that so many have been wrecked—a circumstance most deeply to be regretted, not only from the dreadful loss of life which it has occasioned, but also from its tendency to check the disposition to emigrate among our countrymen. It is lamentable to find from the Report, that no fewer than seventeen emigrant vessels were wrecked in the course of the last season. The crews and passengers, in the greater number of cases, were saved; but no fewer than 731 persons were lost, being almost 1½ per cent. of the total number who emigrated last year.† Mr. Buchanan ascribes these calamities, unprecedented as they were last year in number, chiefly "to the immoderate use of ardent spirits on board of the emigrant ships, in which respect our vessels afford a most humiliating contrast with the sobriety maintained in the American shipping employed in the trade with the United Kingdom." He recommends the total abolition of the pernicious use of ardent spirits on board of emigrant vessels, coupled with certain amendments, which he gives in detail, of the Passenger Act, and the construction of some light-houses along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. These suggestions, we are glad to find, have been attended to, and an act passed this session embodying the substance of them; so that, in future, emigrants may rest satisfied

* In the work of Captain Sturt, named at the head of our article, the reader will find much valuable information respecting Western Australia. We have also perused Captain Irwin's little tract on the Swan River Colony, on less high authority, and on the whole more satisfactory than we had been led to anticipate. But these are not the colonies to which any humane person will mainly look for the sort of relief which forms the object of this paper.

† Emigration Return, p. 13.

that

that their safety and sufficient accommodation on board the vessels they embark in are secured (as far as human caution can secure them) by efficient legal provisions; and the occurrence of such calamities as those we have mentioned rendered all but impossible.

In the colony emigrant agents have been judiciously appointed, not only at Quebec and Montreal, the principal ports of debarkation, but likewise at Toronto, Lachine, Kingston, and some others of the most rising townships in the upper province. It is most satisfactory to find that by the exertions of these agents the emigrants on their arrival are, without the slightest difficulty and little or no expense, directed to the points to which they wish to proceed, or where they are most likely to meet with the objects they have in view, whether work or the purchase of land; that they are secured from imposition, and assisted, when they require it, with the means of reaching their destination. The government works on the Welland Canal and Grand River afford ample means of employment for such labourers as might not at first meet with an engagement. The agent at Toronto writes that "1500 labourers are at present required on these works, at a pay of twelve dollars (more than 2*l.*) per month, and found in provisions." In addition to these works, the opening of roads and clearing of the crown lands, both very desirable public objects, would afford the means of enlarging this temporary resource to any extent which might be rendered advisable by any casual accumulation of immigrants.

These arrangements, as we observed before, are excellent as preparatives for the adoption of an enlarged and systematic scheme of colonization. All that is wanting further is a few additional arrangements in this country for regulating the stream of emigrants, and preparing the means of carrying them out in due proportion to the numbers that may propose to avail themselves of the offer, and that the government should determine on making an application to parliament for the necessary funds with which to commence and carry on the measure on a scale proportioned to the magnitude of the benefits that are calculated to result from it.

To the south the repugnance of those charitable but mistaken persons who declaim against all aid to emigration in the name of the poor themselves, we subjoin a few extracts from some of the numerous letters that now lie before us, from paupers who have left this country within the last year or two, to their friends who remain here. The whole collection breathes but one tone, that of exultation at having exchanged English pauperism for Canadian abundance and independence, mingled with gratitude to those who assisted them to emigrate, and an anxious desire to see their friends follow their example. We are induced to select these scraps, some

letters from emigrants who left the neighbourhood of Frome in the year 1832, not because they are more highly coloured than others, for we can assure our readers this is far from being the case, but because they form a sort of sequel to those of the emigrants from Corsley and Chapmanslade, places in the vicinity of Frome, from which, a few years since, when urging the same topic, we extracted several interesting passages. Our readers will observe that, far from being separated for ever from all intercourse with their families and friends, the emigrants in many cases find themselves in the vicinity of old friends and neighbours—are usually surrounded by members of their family, who go out and settle near them—and may and do keep up probably as close an epistolary intercourse with the friends and relatives they have left behind, as if they had only removed to another part of the United Kingdom. Such indeed is the facility of communication at present between the colonies and the mother country, that a son or brother, who has settled in Canada, is virtually no farther removed from his father or sister, who stays behind in Sussex, than would have been the case a century back if he had removed only into Lancashire.

Little York, Upper Canada.

Dear Father and Mother,—I have to inform you that John and I are living at his aunt Carpenter's, and we are very comfortably settled indeed. John has plenty of work, and we are doing very well indeed, for John is getting 7*s.* 6*d.* a day of our money; and his aunt is very kind to me, and I am just as comfortable as I was at home, indeed more so, for I never knew the want of victuals or drink since I entered my aunt's house, and while I am writing this we have a bottle of good old port wine on the table, and I was wishing that you could enjoy yourselves with the same. But if you were all here to enjoy yourselves altogether, it would be more comfortable; and if you were here, you would find it a great deal better than you do in England, for you do not hear any complaint or any begging here. I should like to fly over to Frome to see you all, but if you would give me all the birds' cages you have got, I would not stop here, for I never saw a more beautiful, pleasant place in all my life, than little York is. I shall not persuade you to come, you can use your own mind; there are plenty of your tools used here for combing cox. Please to tell my brother Frank there is hatting business carried on here, and if he had a little money he might soon be a gentleman. Tell Frederick shoemaking is an excellent trade, and so is glazing. Please to tell my brother Richard that gardening is one of the best of trades here, for people are too independent to rise their own garden-stuff, and a cabbage is sold for 4*d.* in the market; a good gardener is wanted here very bad indeed. Please to tell my dear sister Eliza if she had hearkened to her I never should have been in America; but I only wish she had my spirit to come here to, she would

would not wish to go back again. Ask her if she has written to Pedman, in Wine-Street, who used to play with Edith Sheppard so much, and tell her I am living with her, and am as happy as the day is long; and I should have been ten times more so had it not been for the loss of my poor child, who died soon after we came here. She had every attention paid her. We were five weeks coming from Bristol to Quebec, and eighteen days to Little York; we had a very pleasant passage on the ocean, but very rough up the rapids, and that is the reason Mrs. Carpenter wished me to come New York way. Give my kind love to little Jane, and tell her I wish she was out here, as she could get as much work as she could do, and good work too—it is 2s. 6d. for making a shirt, without any stitching, and I have as much in the house as I can do. Please to tell Mr. and Mrs. F. that I think they were very foolish in going back again, for I am sure they might have done very well here; but that is the way of some people, they just come and look round, and run back again before they know any thing about it, and give it a bad name, but I speak as I find it. I have never known the want of anything since I landed in America; and wearing apparel is just as cheap as it is at home. I have bought a very handsome Leghorn bonnet for 10s., a new hat for John, a pair of shoes each, two new gowns and aprons, a very handsome black silk shawl, and a pair of new trowsers for John, and I have a pound to spare; and this is more than I should have had in Frome in a year, therefore I do not repent leaving it; but if I had you all here I should be happier. Do not delay writing, for I long to hear from you. Remember me to John and his aunt, and tell him I was as comfortable as I was at home since I left here. From your loving Son and Daughter,

JOHN AND SOPHIA ELLIS.

As a pendant to this letter from children to their parents, we subjoin one from two parents to those of their children whom they had left behind, though, it would seem, they had taken several with them, of whom mention is made in the letter as having prospered for. This common epistle from a father and mother, subscribed by both, and in which each takes the pen alternately without any distinguishing mark, is very usual among letters of this class. This letter is evidently begun by the father, but it is not difficult to discover where the mother commences her portion of the joint correspondence, from the maternal pride and love evinced in her account of her children's improved condition.

Augusta, Upper Canada.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—I received your kind and welcome letter, and am glad to hear you are well, as I leave us all at present, thank God for it. How glad we are to hear you are coming. I hope the Lord will bring you safe over the mighty deep. My dear children, I do long for the time to come to see you. What a joyful day will that be for us to be together. We have taken fifteen acres of land, that we are going to put some of it in order for you. Farming, you come, you are the right man for this country—a man who likes his work, loves

and

and children there is no fear of coming there. I have seven cows, two pigs, and eight chickens; we had a very fine harvest. Your sister Sophia lives at Squire Longley's, whose son died when she first came; waiting-maid, 10*l.* a year. Jane is house-maid to Squire Jones, 9*l.* a year. I am happy to say she is very steady. Stephen has not been home to live since we landed; he lives at Hintern. Hannah has his living and clothes; lives at Mr. Hicks's, whose we took the land when we first came. Daniel and little William live at home with me; he grows a very fine boy, he can talk anything now: sometimes I say, "Baby, I want the cow," he will take a stick and drive her to the door for me to milk. You are desirous to know what I do; the farmer's wife is glad with me; I go to market one day, sometimes two days in the week, and go to Prescott to sell, and buy for them; and when they sheared their sheep, I helped them to sort the wool; they asked me if I could spin in the hand-turn. I said yes, so I have earned twenty shillings, and I am going to buy me a gown; they don't pay in money; last week I went and picked up apples, for which I had my keep and a bag of apples. They are very good to me; if I want anything in their garden, I send and have it. Your dear mother and brothers, when I read the letter to them, their eyes were filled with tears of joy to hear you were coming; Sophia says, then I shall be happy. We all long for that happy day to come. Give our kind love to my sister French. I hope I shall see her in America. Give our kind love to Mrs. Mist and Sarah, &c. I am sorry I could not say anything of Thomas Barter; he was at our house about a month ago; he has a very good place; he lives handy our Sophia; sometimes they come here together, they live at one place but not at the same house; he takes my house as home. I am happy to say that in the same place as your three sisters live there is a Church of England and Meetings the same as in England.

'From your affectionate Father and Mother,

'WILLIAM and JANE RAMLEGH.'

One more specimen and we have done:—

'MY DEAR WIFE,—I received your letter on the 4th of this month, and am happy to hear that you are all well; I thank God for it. I am happy to inform you that I never had one hour's illness since I left you, that is a blessed thing to say. I don't know that I ever was so ready to work in my life as at present. I thank God for it. I have work all the year round, and the wages are good. I am settled in a very comfortable home, and the neighbours are very kind to me. I have been twenty-five long and sixteen feet wide, with a good cellar in it, which I hope will be [illegible] March [illegible] and then I shall get [illegible] money, and then I shall [illegible] Canada what I have done. As the [illegible] as Michaelmas as any [illegible] my rent, and [illegible] have a [illegible] pretty little [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] since

go to my brothers and poor own ones and give them all the news if they can not be mad if they have not a shilling in their pockets when they land, they soon get more, for we think it will be all here. I should not wish a dear wife and family to come and be the same. Edgar, be sure to take care of your poor dear mother, and the little children; may God bless you and send you a safe journey: so no more at present from your loving husband and father,

ROBERT SAGE.

P.S.—If I never see you no more on earth, I hope I shall in heaven. May the Lord bless you all, my little dears. May the Lord bless every subscriber; I hope they will never live to want it.

We conclude with the same wish; may the Lord bless every one who will contribute to the good work of aiding the honest and industrious poor, whom no fault of their own, but the natural progress of population expanding within a narrow insular area, has reduced to misery in Ireland, to parochial slavery and degradation in Britain, to remove to a situation where they will enjoy the comfort, independence, and happy prospects that are so strikingly depicted in these artless letters—where they will become a blessing to society at large, to themselves, their friends, and their native country, instead of an incumbrance and a spectacle of unrequited patience under almost intolerable and wholly undeserved sufferings.